

U.S. Department of Justice

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March 15, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today his office procedures for the 2004 Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2004.

The Department of Justice has traditionally taken an active role in election crime matters. Accordingly, measures have been adopted to ensure that persons observing election irregularities will have easy access to federal and state law enforcement personnel, and that valid complaints of federal and state election crime offenses are vigorously and promptly investigated.

This year, through coordination with local and state law enforcement efforts, complaints coming to the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois will be processed by the appropriate federal, state, or local agency having jurisdiction. This coordinated law enforcement effort will include the Illinois State Board of Elections and the various county State's Attorneys.

An Assistant United States Attorney will be available at the United States Attorney's Office in Fairview Heights, Illinois at (618) 628-3700, to receive complaints involving election irregularities within the Southern District of Illinois from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. on

March 16, 2004. Between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., an Assistant United States Attorney will be available at 618-628-3748, to receive complaints. For matters occurring in the Carbondale, Benton, Cairo, and surrounding areas, an Assistant United States Attorney will be available at the United States Attorney's Office in Benton, Illinois, at 618-439-3808, ext. 101.

These election complaints will be directed to the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies for investigation and prosecution.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is authorized to take complaints, and with the approval of the election day officer in the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois, to conduct whatever preliminary investigation may be necessary or appropriate. Election related complaints resulting in federal intervention will be reported to the Election Crimes Branch in the Department of Justice as soon as it is practical to do so. Complaints which do not fall within the purview of the federal statutes will be referred immediately to the Illinois State Board of Elections or the States Attorney's Office of the affected county.

Citizens who desire to report possible vote fraud or other irregularities to state officials may call the Illinois Attorney General's Belleville Office at 618-236-8616 or Carbondale Office at 618-529-6400; the St. Clair County States Attorney's Office at (618) 277-6600; or the Madison County States Attorney's Office at (618) 692-6280.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation will accept complaints in Fairview Heights, Illinois at (618) 397-4401 and in Carbondale, Illinois at (618) 529-5121.